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See review page 8



Vol. 20, No. 31

NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

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Chamber golf outing tees off

The Romulus Chamber of Commerce annual golf fundraiser will take place on Aug. 21 at the Woodlands of Van Buren Golf Course. Proceeds from the outing help to fund the business activities of the chamber. Special early-bird registration is now under way. For more information about rates, call the chamber at (734) 893-0694, or e-mail the chamber at info@romuluschamber.com.

Second Monday Book Club to meet

The Romulus Public Library Monday Night Book Club is open to area readers. Book discussions are free and open to all residents age 18 and older. Participants need not register in advance. The library will have copies of the books, or staff members will assist readers in getting an inter-library loan copy. The remaining books to be discussed include: "Pontoon-A Novel of Lake Wobegon" by Garrison Keillor, which will be discussed Aug. 11; "At Home in Mitford" by Jan Karon, which will be discussed Sept. 8, and "A River Runs Through It" by Norman Maclean, which will be discussed Oct. 13. Refreshments will be served. The Romulus Public Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road. For more information, call the library at (734) 942-7589.

Oakwood offers seminar on mental illness

In cooperation with the National Alliance on Mental Illness - Michigan (NAMI-MI), Oakwood Heritage Hospital (OHH) is presenting Mental Illness 102 - Families In Action seminar from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9 at the Ford Senior Center, 23555 Goddard in Taylor. This seminar is for parents, professionals, caregivers or anyone who wants to learn and understand more about mental illness. Topics that will be discussed include: individual wants and needs, community resources, an overview of the mental health system, signs and symptoms, dual diagnoses, the effect of mental illness on a family unit, stress, and stigma. It is estimated that mental illness affects one in five families in America. According to NAMI, even though mental disorders are widespread in the population, the main burden of illness is concentrated in a much smaller proportion - about 6 percent, or one in 17 Americans who suffer from a serious mental illness. Families in Action is an educational program designed specifically for people with a loved one who is experiencing a serious form of mental illness. The program was developed by NAMI and is funded by the Oakwood Healthcare System Foundation and the OHH Auxiliary Volunteers. There is no charge for the seminar and a light lunch will be provided. Those interested should RSVP no later than Aug. 1. For more information, or to register, call Elaine at (734) 981-2282 or Tamera at (313) 295-5385.

— Events are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen.

Airport, cities reach an agreement

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A compromise was reached by several local mayors and members of the Wayne County Airport Authority last week regarding a new runway.

A new runway - which would have been situated along Eureka Road where several businesses and homes currently exist - is at least eight years in the future, and the first part of the plan approved by the authority does not have a runway in it, said Scott Wintner, and spokesman for the authority.

"We all came to a consensus, and we think splitting a plan - which was only going to be put into place if passenger traffic goes up - satisfies everyone involved," he said.

Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert agreed the plan is a good one.

"We now get to be a part of the process, and we didn't have that before," he said. "The airport will have to use current numbers - which means that a runway will only be built if and when it is needed, and we'll have a voice in the decision."

The plan does make it much less likely that a runway will be built as part of the plan, and if one is needed, it cannot be built until sometime after 2016, and after several public hearings have taken place, Lambert said.

The deal divided the controversial master plan into two airport layout plans. The second layout plan - known as the "ultimate plan"

See Airport, page 3



Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert prepares to speak before the Wayne County Airport Authority meeting July 24.



Fishing for help

Fish & Loaves, a food bank that opened Tuesday, will serve residents of Romulus along with Taylor, Allen Park, Brownstown Township, Dearborn Heights and Southgate. Community United Methodist Church and Ball Road Tabernacle are two Romulus churches that are already helping to support Fish & Loaves. Several local officials joined in the grand opening celebration, including (left to right) Mayor Daniel Paletko of Dearborn Heights, Mayor Alan R. Lambert of Romulus, Congressman John D. Dingell, Michael Robbins, and Tim Keyes, Romulus economic development director.

Support sought for family after crash

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A family torn apart by unspeakable grief two weeks ago will get a little support from the Halecreek School community.

A spaghetti fundraiser has been organized to assist the Diebel family, who lost two of their children, Measha, a sixth grader, and AJ, who was in the seventh grade, in a vehicle accident in Romulus. The accident also injured several other members of the family, including their mother, Wendy.

Jason Salhaney, the principal of Halecreek, learned about the accident while he was at a conference.

"I was just at a loss for words when I heard there had been an accident," he said. "And it was just unimaginable when I heard that the two children had passed. It's just a tragic situation all around."

I was just at a loss for words when I heard there had been an accident.

Jason Salhaney

The accident occurred at Inkster and Northline roads. The van driven by Wendy Diebel also included Measha, AJ, and her other children, Arianna and Mark, who attend Romulus High School.

Arianna and Mark escaped the crash with cuts and bruises, but the rest of the family wasn't so lucky: Measha and Mark received

critical wounds and were transported to the hospital along with their mother, who received several broken bones.

Measha and Mark never recovered from their injuries, and were taken off life support within a week of one another, Salhaney said. Their organs were donated to people in need.

The children's father, Mike Diebel, was not in the vehicle, but is now left behind with the aftermath of the accident, Salhaney said.

"I can't imagine what the family is going through right now, and I hope the fundraiser can take care of some immediate needs," he said. "his family has been uprooted."

The Diebel family are life long Romulus residents. All four children attend Romulus Community

See Family, page 3

Driver convicted in death

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A 46-year-old man was convicted last week on several charges related to a drunk driving accident in Inkster that claimed the life of a Romulus woman in November. He was acquitted, however, of the most serious charge leveled against him.

A jury found Dannie Baker, formerly of West Bloomfield, not guilty

The convictions mean he will spend at least 15 years in jail. Baker's trial lasted two days.

of one count of manslaughter with a motor vehicle, but guilty of operating while impaired causing death, negligent homicide, and driving while his license was suspended, causing the death of Marie Barron, 71.

The convictions mean he will spend at least 15 years in jail. Baker's trial lasted two days, and was heard in the courtroom of Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Michael Callahan.

Barron - a grandmother - was stopped at a traffic light on Michigan Avenue at Henry Ruff Road in her Ford Focus at about 6:45 p.m. on Nov. 9 when she was struck by a Ford Expedition driven by Baker.

Upon impact, Barron's vehicle burst into flames, according to Inkster patrol officers who responded to the scene.

Barron died later at the scene despite efforts by paramedics to save her life, police said.

Baker was treated for minor injuries, and a blood test revealed he was driving under the influence,

See Death, page 3

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Family fun Annual Starfish family festival set

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The fun is about to begin at Starfish Family Services.

Once again, parents and caregivers are invited to spend a fun-filled day with their children while learning about special services and programs to benefit their families at the Starfish Family Services Third Annual "Family Fun Fair" on Friday, Aug. 8, in Inkster.

Ann Kalass, the CEO of Starfish, said the event has been a success in the past, and big changes are expected to bring in bigger crowds.

"Each year we look forward to providing the community with a fun day with their families while educating them on programs that can help them create a brighter future for their children," she said.

Children of all ages will enjoy various activities including: caricature artists, face painting, an inflatable bouncer, Mr. Smooth ballroom dancing, a petting zoo, carnival games and activities, a children's produce stand, free food and refreshments, health and safety activities and visits from local police and fire departments.

While children enjoy activities, parents and caregivers will have an opportunity to explore the programs and services, such as free preschool, literacy and after-school programs, After Baby Comes for first-time moms, counseling services, teen crisis hotline and shelter and parenting classes.

The Fun Fair was conceived three years ago to publicize services – in particular the Headstart program – but the event has grown significantly, said Paula Brown, development director of Starfish.

"We started the event because of the Headstart program, but we saw

how much fun the children were having, and we have this huge lawn," she said. "We decided that this could be more of a community event for the families in the area, especially in light of the number of children who live in walking distance of our offices."

The focus is on parents and caregivers for those same reasons, Brown added.

"There are parents who need to know that we can help them," she said.

Though the goals remain the same, some new activities have been added this year, Brown said.

"We've added quite a few activities, including ballroom dancing," she said.

"We're also selling vegetables from a garden on our grounds that

students who take part in their program have tilled."

Typically, about 200-300 residents are expected to attend, though Starfish organizers would like to see the number grow because of the shifting economic fortunes in the area, Brown said.

"There are parents that are struggling right now because they don't know about programming that can help them, like the free pre-school," she said. "We want to let as many people as we can know about those programs."

The fair will take place from 2-6 p.m. at Starfish Family Services' Inkster headquarters, which is located at 30000 Hiveley Road (south of Cherry Hill, west of Middlebelt). The fair is free for all residents of Wayne County. For more information, call (734) 728-3400.

Starfish is the largest private, non-profit human service agency in western Wayne County. Through 12 specialized programs, the organization has served nearly 8,000 children and their families over the last year.

"Each year we look forward to providing the community with a fun day with their families while educating them on programs that can help them create a brighter future for their children."

Ann Kalass



The 2008 Belleville Parks and Recreation Commission's 11th Annual Summer Kids' Triathlon was a huge success with 58 participants, ages 3-14.

Tri-fun

Young athletes take away honors

The 2008 Belleville Parks and Recreation Commission's 11th Annual Summer Kids' Triathlon was a huge success with 58 participants, ages 3-14, competing in the softball throw/shot put, running and long jump events. Winners by age group are:

Ages 3-4 year—Softball Throw: 1st Shaihi Brown; 2nd Brayden Niemiec; and 3rd Ryane Ashley. Run: 1st Shaihi Brown; 2nd Elijah Chickwe; and 3rd Shaihi Brown. Long Jump: 1st Elijah Chickwe; 2nd Brayden Niemiec; and 3rd Shaihi Brown.

Ages 5-6 year—Softball Throw: 1st Shariff Brown; 2nd Hunter Osborne; 3rd Brooke Forster. Run: 1st Shariff Brown; 2nd Brooke Forster; and 3rd Hunter Osborne. Long Jump: 1st Shariff Brown; 2nd Brooke Forster; and 3rd Tanue Troupe.

Ages 7-8 years—Softball Throw: 1st Matthew Bradley; 2nd Loren Vail; and 3rd Isaac Morris. Run: 1st Matthew Bradley; 2nd Isaac Morris; and 3rd Loren Vail. Long Jump: 1st Isaac Morris; 2nd

Matthew Bradley and Amaka Chickwe.

Ages 9-10 years—Softball Throw: 1st Bryce Robbins; 2nd Devon Vail; and 3rd Shakur Brown. Run: 1st Shakur Brown; 2nd Chase Bongiorno; and 3rd Cole Fleming. Long Jump: 1st Shakur Brown; 2nd Chase Bongiorno; and 3rd Bryce Robbins.

Ages 11-12 years—Shot Put: 1st Noah Howell; 2nd Kelon Jackson; and 3rd Mychael Bradley. Run: 1st Noah Howell; 2nd Michael Morris; and 3rd Zack Bongiorno and Mychael Bradley. Long Jump: 1st Michael Morris; 2nd Mychael Bradley; and 3rd Jayci Forster.

Ages 13-14 years—Shot Put: William Herring; 2nd Scott Fleming; and 3rd Akeinen Cotton. Run: 1st William Herring; 2nd Scott Fleming; and 3rd Candice Testorelli. Long Jump: William Herring; 2nd Scott Fleming; and 3rd Candice Testorelli.

The event wouldn't have been nearly as fun without the tasty and cool ice cream treats donated by Cool Cone.



Hunter Osborne competes in the long jump for 5-6-year-olds at the 2008 Belleville Parks and Recreation Commissions 11th Annual Summer Kids' Triathlon.



Bryce Robbins won first place in the 9-10-year-old softball throw competition with this toss. Photos by Ken Garner

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Airport police seek new accreditation to save money

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Wayne County Airport Police are hoping a peer review will help save liability costs in the near future.

The Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) will undergo a review by other airport police agencies that have achieved CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) standards in an effort to improve processes at the airport, said Scott Wintner, a spokesman for the airport authority.

“The benefit of CALEA accreditation is related to liabilities – we hope to be able to save on insurance premiums down the line

when we can show we’ve reached the highest standards possible,” he said. “CALEA accreditation is considered a gold standard.”

Attaining CALEA accreditation is a process the airport authority police initiated in late 2007. Attaining the mark requires that airport law enforcement be in compliance with more than 390 professional standards. CALEA accreditation signifies that a law enforcement agency is among the top performing such organizations in the world.

As part of the final phase of the accreditation process, a team of CALEA assessors will spend five days examining every aspect of WCAA public safety operations.

Assessors – generally about three representatives from previously certified airports – will observe WCAA public safety personnel, equipment and operating procedures; interview public safety officers; and tour airport facilities and other related properties.

As part of the process, public input regarding safety is required.

The airport police will provide two opportunities for the public to submit comments regarding law enforcement at Detroit Metropolitan and Willow Run Airports as part of the two-year process to attain accreditation.

From 1-3 p.m. on Aug. 11, assessors will make themselves available to members of

the public by phone.

Callers will have the opportunity to speak with one of the CALEA assessors regarding the accreditation process and to provide input on WCAA law enforcement. Members of the public who wish to participate may do so during this two-hour period by calling (734) 247-7027.

Then, at 5 p.m., WCAA will host a public information session at the Detroit Metro Airport Smith Terminal Mezzanine. CALEA assessors will also be available to address comments and questions from the public.

For more information regarding the public information forum, contact WCAA Police Captain William Dunbar at (734) 942-5302.

Light election turnout expected

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Less than a third of the 1,700 registered Romulus voters are expected to help decide which Democrats and Republicans will advance to compete in a number of state and county races in November.

Romulus Elections Clerk Rendell Wooden said turnout will likely mirror the last commission election because of a lack of local ballot initiatives.

“If you consider we have 17,000 voters, I would think we’d be lucky to get 3,000 people in here voting,” she said.

This year, longtime Wayne County Commissioner Ed Boike’s name will appear on the ballot, but he is unopposed, Wooden said.

That means Boike will automatically be slotted into his position for another 2-year term.

Voters will also decide which of two Republicans will move onto the general election to compete for a seat as a state representative – which has no incumbent this year because Sen. Hoon Yung-Hopgood is term-limited.

The District 22 seat is being contested by five residents of Taylor: Democrats Jill Brandana and Douglas Geiss – both of whom currently sit on the Taylor City Council – will face off with another Democrat, Edward Mulka.

Two Republicans will also compete for a place on the November ballot – Don Lingerfelt and Darrell McNeill.

Several county-wide races will also narrowed to two candidates, including the county prosecutor, sheriff, clerk, treasurer, and register of deeds. Also, a non-partisan election of a judge for the 3rd Judicial Circuit Court will take place.

There is one proposal on the ballot. The Wayne County Zoological Authority is asking electors to levy a tax of not more than 0.1 mill – or 10 cents for \$1,000 of taxable value – on real property to provide revenue to support zoo activities and upkeep.

The levy would be in place for 10 years, if voters approve the measure. The tax would generate \$5 million in 2008.

Wooden said voters should remember to have picture identification with them to make sure there are no problems when they vote. If a voter doesn’t have identification, he or she will have to sign an affidavit.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Tuesday.

Anyone with questions about the election should call the Romulus City Clerk’s office at (734) 942-7540.

The general election is scheduled for Nov. 6.

er Democrat, Edward Mulka.

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Looking for children

The fun doesn’t stop for the YWCA student recruitment team. Out in full force since mid-June, YWCA employees have been spreading the word about the organization’s pre-school. The YWCA offers quality pre-school programs to children 2 ½ to 5 years old at no cost to most families throughout Wayne County. There are many locations available throughout your community. Home-based programs are also available. Here, pre-school organizers Jeanine Berry and Sue Cook explain the program to a parent. For more information, call the YWCA Education Department at (313) 561-4110 ext. 10.

Airport

FROM PAGE 1

still includes the runway. The airport would have to seek approval from the Federal Aviation Administration to build the runway.

Lambert said he believes the agreement is one that provides residents who live near where a runway would be constructed some relief.

“Knowing that a new runway is at least eight years off, I think, is good for the homeowners because they won’t have to deal with selling their home over the next two or three years,” he said.

The original airport master plan was controversial from the get-go.

A fifth parallel runway would have required the removal of several commercial and residential structures, including the 350-unit Sky Harbor Apartments, 30 industrial buildings, 18 commercial buildings, at least one subdivision, and Merriman Elementary School.

The expansion would allow the airport to fly more aircraft into the facilities, but the city would lose city tax dollars that pay for services to residents when the buildings are demolished to make room for the runway.

City estimates indicate the plan would effectively reduce the size of the City of Romulus by about 7 percent, and potentially by 3,500 residents.

In all, about 800 residences

would be demolished, and the city could stand to lose almost \$1 million in assessed revenue, according to the city.

Romulus Community Schools could lose as much as \$1.7 million in revenue if the plan were implemented.

Lambert said the involvement of Congressman John Dingell, who was concerned that the communities that surrounded the airport would be negatively affected by the original plan, helped the cities get their point across to the airport.

“I would have to say John Dingell and the involvement of the mayors helped all of us reach an agreement,” he said.

Dingell also praised the agreement.

“I think the citizens who live around the airport can feel very good about the proposal,” said Dingell. “They should be pleased by the work done by the airport and the community leaders who took part in the talks.

“Everyone came to the table looking to make sure that both the needs of the communities and the airport were considered when planning any future airport development. Detroit Metro Airport is a fine facility and both the airport and the surrounding communities realize that the airport must grow in order to remain competitive. However, today’s agreement will ensure that the communities are informed of decisions that will affect their residents. The proposal going to the board will be good for all parties,” he said.

Belleville seeks bond approval

Andrea King
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Belleville residents can head to the polls to cast their vote on the \$6.5 million Main Street bond proposal.

If approved, the project will go out for bid in September with Spicer Group engineers for Main Street paving, water main, streetscape and Liberty Street parking lot improvements.

“The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) approved financing improvements to the Liberty Street parking lot from the \$6 million bond proposal. The DDA board also voted to commit \$535,000 of the bond, if approved, to pay for new landscaping and lighting, improved traffic circulation and a new drainage system for the parking lot,” said Carol Thompson, administrative coordinator for the development group.

“Improvements for the Liberty Street parking lot—located on Liberty behind Main Street stores— have been discussed at public meetings for the past few months. Spicer Group is working on the plan.

“If the bond is approved, we go out to bid and then we can have the

actual costs and construction schedule,” she added.

Plans for the Main Street project proposed by Walker Development were initially unveiled in January, and included a potential retail and residential development, including a 72,000 square foot grocery store (Kroger) located off of Main Street between Roy’s and Charles streets. It also included a new library on the ground floor; plus 31,000 square feet of retail, residential housing, office space, parking and, the elimination of several downtown buildings, like Chase Bank.

Downtown business owners were concerned about the project scheduled to start in May and formed a committee to stop the bond sale of the development. The right of referendum petition was submitted with about 450 signatures and approved in April putting it on the August primary ballot.

Thompson said no bond income is budgeted for the Kroger store and the downtown redevelopment project proposed by Walker Development.

“About \$5.8 million is budgeted for the water main, road paving and streetscape; about \$200,000 for bond process and the remaining almost \$500,000 for the Liberty

Street parking,” said Thompson.

Development group officials said the planning process was started by meeting with area business owners and residents to discuss the parking lot appearance, drainage issues, ice accumulation, traffic, accessibility, customer and employee safety. The development group board reviewed the design options and recently instructed Spicer Group to move forward with a final design, including review by the city planner and application to the Belleville Planning Commission.

“These are infrastructure improvements within the downtown development authority,” said Thompson. “We can repay that bond and still operate annually. We can get the job done and it will last.

“Doing it this way does not increase the cost to taxpayers,” she added.

“Not everyone realizes that the water and streets are a city project so this will go back to city council if it doesn’t pass. The development authority and city council hopefully support each other and the key is rebuilding and moving in a forward direction.”

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, contact city hall at (734) 697-9323.

Family

FROM PAGE 1

Schools, where Wendy Diebel is also an employee and volunteer:

The community can help this family through the tragic events, however.

A fundraising event has been scheduled from 5-8 p.m. Aug. 1. The suggested donation is \$5 per person and can be paid at the

door. All funds raised will go directly to the family.

Volunteers are also needed to help out at the event by cooking, cleaning, serving, and collecting money, Salhaney said.

Also a fund has been set up to help the family with costs related to the accident. The fund was set up at National City Bank and donations can be dropped off at any one of their branches. Checks can also be mailed to Halecreek Elementary 16200 Harrison,

Romulus, Mich. 48174. Checks can be made out to the Diebel Family Fund.

Funeral arrangements for AJ and Measha have not been set at this point.

“This family is dealing with unimaginable pain and feeling of loss,” he said. “The entire Romulus Community is saddened by these events, but is determined to rally around this family with love, compassion and financial support.”

suspended, and his privileges were revoked until 2019, state records indicated.

Baker will return to Callahan’s courtroom for sentencing on Aug. 4.

Death

FROM PAGE 1

police said.

The defendant did not have a valid driver’s license when the accident occurred.

According to driving records provided by the Michigan Secretary of

State’s Office, Baker was previously convicted several times of alcohol-related offenses.

Baker’s first offense was in 1979. Baker’s driving record indicated

that, during the next several years, he was convicted at least six more times for driving while under the influence of alcohol. In 1998, police stopped him while his license was

Safe and sound

Security expert joins Wayne County Community College staff

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Jim Marcinkowski, a former FBI and CIA agent, has now joined forces with the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD). In his newest role, Marcinkowski will help the college develop an emergency operations plan, as well as teach homeland security courses at the district Michigan Institute of Public Education (MIPSE). “I don’t think I could have had a more exciting life than in the CIA and FBI,” said Marcinkowski of Macomb Township. “I’ve always done things I wanted to do and, I’m including the WCCCD along the same lines. This is my opportunity to return my experiences to other people.” Marcinkowski started working with the Federal Bureau of

Investigation (FBI) in 1974 in the computer systems division. He then served during the Cold War years in shipboard operations as part of the U.S. Navy where he helped collect intelligence. He then joined the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as an operations officer before working in the Oakland County prosecutor’s office and Royal Oak city attorney’s office. “Today’s issues are upfront and they impact everyone,” he said. “The objective is to demystify and educate about how homeland security works. It shouldn’t be seen as something ordinary people can’t participate in because it’s impacting our daily lives.” “WCCCD understands that with their homeland security program,” he added. “Never mind just incidents like 911, we live in a world where we see it on college campuses and through technology with

cyber attacks; it’s all related. The college is moving forward along those lines and responding to the wave of the future as Michigan changes.” The new emergency operations plan for the district’s five campuses will help safeguard against potential threat, including natural disasters and cyber-hacking. His new program at the MIPSE location will also engage local first responders and other community leaders to share best practices and coordinate security efforts, along with educate business leaders on the best ways to safeguard their employees and organizations against potential threats, officials said. “Safety is the number one priority so I’ll be conducting a system review of safety and security, correcting what’s needed, training and enhancing,” said Marcinkowski. “It’s



Jim Marcinkowski

important to remember the same procedures are used there as to how to respond to tornadoes, fires, etc. The college district presents a unique situation with five campuses. “I was trained by the best, I worked with the best intelligence

agencies; I lived it so I can bring a unique perspective to academic and security roles,” he added. School officials said that’s what brought him to WCCCD. “His experience is priceless and he brings skills that no one else brings to the table,” said Vidya Moorthy, spokesperson for the district. “It’s a need of the times, plus with student enrollment up and growth physically, it’s important to be providing a recommendation from an expert.” “We’re excited and welcome Jim to the district,” said Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery. “Bringing someone of his caliber is just one example of how the district is bringing valuable resources and programs to the community. We know that his expertise will not only be a valuable asset to the district, but will also be a great benefit to our country’s first responders and business leaders.”

Teen designers honored

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

The world of fashion was turned inside out last week at the Teen Alternative Fashion Show. The show, which took place at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland on July 23, defined alternative fashion as “design that stands apart from mainstream fashion” and as designs that are “often more artistic than practical and may not even be designed to be worn more than once.” “The point of it was to make it out of something that clothing wouldn’t normally be made out of,” said Young Adult Librarian and program organizer Bridget Sturdy. To make that happen, teens had an opportunity to submit a uniquely designed outfit in two categories. In the altered clothing, participants were asked to use existing pieces to create a new and original look. Melissa Chesnut modeled a bright yellow dress, created by her friend and fellow teen, Olivia Rensel, out of an altered pattern while Brandi Burns showed off a skirt she had transformed and accentuated with glitter detailing and a coordinating shirt. For 17-year-old Rensel of Wayne, getting involved in the design competition was an obvious choice. “I do a lot of designing,” she said. “I want to go into fashion.” The approximately 50 people in the audience ultimately voted her outfit as their favorite in the altered clothing competition. The recycled materials category, meanwhile, offered teens a chance to totally rethink concepts of fashion and beauty by utilizing trash—things of little to no value—

and, through design, giving them new life. Amber Heery, who modeled a dress designed by Juliana Stewart, walked the runway in a gown created from bubble wrap and lined with a shower curtain. Katie Markham, meanwhile, transformed a trash bag and some fabric scraps into a dress modeled by Staci Hatzung. Amy Whiting wore a skirt suit designed by Katelyn Rodriguez and created from items ranging from discarded clothing to a tablecloth. The audience favorite—and the Target gift card that went to the winners of the category—went to the duo of Markham, 16, of Westland and Hatzung, 17, of Wayne. According to Markham, she wanted to get involved because of the mindset of ‘going green’ the competition encouraged. “I’m an artist and an environmentalist,” she said, adding she liked the idea of taking trash and making it into something useful. She doesn’t foresee herself in a career in fashion although she clarified that “if anyone wants a garbage bag prom dress, they should call me.” The fashion show, Sturdy said, was particularly impressive for her because it offered the teens a chance to show off their own sense of style and a vision of fashion that went beyond recreating a celebrity’s look or just using a pattern. “(It) was the first time I saw most of the outfits,” she said. “I was just blown away. I was amazed by their creativity, by their vision.” At this point, Sturdy said, the library would consider offering a similar program in the future. “I’m hoping that after seeing this first one it will generate some more interest,” she said.

Jazzistry to perform in area

Jennifer Busch
Staff Writer

American history and Jazz music strike a common chord, when the non-profit organization Jazzistry performs at the Chase Bar and Grill in Northville this Saturday. The two-hour performance, designed to acquaint audience goers with the history rich performances of the six-man troupe, is a modified version of the performance based presentations Jazzistry performs in schools and businesses throughout Michigan. “I see it being called America’s only unique art form,” Jazzistry board member and performer Vincent York said. “Once you find out how you’re connected to it, it’s something to be very proud of.” York, who has been a jazz performer for the past 44 years, said that he started Jazzistry as a creative way to trace the cultural significance of jazz music. Using timelines and performances to trace the progression of jazz up through modern day rap and rock ‘n’ roll, York said he hoped to create a safe haven for honest multicultural discussions, and provide audience goers with a some common artistic ground. “I think there are a lot of difficulties today being able to speak about race,” York said. “This makes it easy to engage in conversations about race because you see how we’re connected. It opens the door for honest discussions about multiculturalism and how we became a

“
I see it being called
America’s only
unique art form.
Vincent York

melting pot. It gives people an outline of our American roots and how jazz evolved for the integration of cultures.” Marge Wisniewski, Jazzistry board member, said that the program uses jazz to get at the root of a much larger cultural ideal, and is a clever way to slip in a history lesson or two to unsuspecting students. “It’s a great way to teach cultural diversity,” Wisniewski said. “The music resonates in all of us. It’s more than just the history of jazz, it’s the history of all of us. No one else has music like that. Jazz came from our own unique history. Plus, the kids love to listen to them. It’s a neat way to sneak that history in for the kids.” York said that their Aug. 2 performance would be geared mostly toward adults and educators, and designed to give them a brief overview of what the program has to offer. He said that he hoped the Jazzistry message of a common American heritage would entertain and inspire audience members, and give them one more reason to give jazz a go. “When I was growing up I didn’t exactly feel connected to American history until I could see my connection,” York said.

“Jazzistry blends entertainment, concert, education and history. It makes it exciting to know American history. We’re doing this event because we’ve had requests from teachers, administrators and senior centers in the Northville area, and we’d like to get other community leaders involved. We thought this would be a great way for people to get acquainted with the program. “There’s no cover charge. We just ask people to bring a lot of enthusiasm and an open mind.” Jazzistry will perform from 2- 4 p.m. For more information call (734) 761- 6024.

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DCI 2008: Big, Loud & Live 5
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THURS. 8/7 6:00 PM

THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG-13)
11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20
FRI/SAT LS 11:50

THE X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (PG-13)
12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35 FRI/SAT LS 11:55

THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40
MAMMA MIA! (PG-13)
11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:55

SPACE CHIMPS (G) 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00
HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13) 7:10, 9:45
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH 3D (PG)
12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25
FRI/SAT LS 11:35

WALL • E (G) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
FRI/SAT LS 11:40

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES JULY 23, 2008

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Trustee Clair arrived at 4:05 p.m. Absent and excused: Trustee Hart. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Attorney Szymanski, Attorney Owens, Secretary Cline and no audience was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Payne moved, Budd seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

CLOSED SESSION: To be held in the Denton Room to discuss pending litigation, case number #04-436630-CZ.

Jahr moved, Rochowiak seconded to adjourn to Closed Session to discuss pending litigation, case number #04-436630-CZ. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Payne, Rochowiak, Budd, Jahr and King. Nays: None. Absent: Clair and Hart. Carried.

There being no further discussion, the Special Board Meeting was adjourned to Closed Session at 4:05 p.m. The Special Board Meeting was reconvened at 5:59 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS: Clair moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the attorney’s recommendation regarding pending litigation in #04-436630-CZ. (No discussion due to pending litigation) Carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Rochowiak moved, Payne seconded to adjourn at 6:01 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Supervisor

Publish: July 31, 2008

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OPINION

Choices abound for Canton Trustee spots

This will be an interesting election year for residents in Canton Township.

Not only will they elect a new supervisor and treasurer, but they'll select new faces for the part-time trustee spot, as well. Fortunately for voters, there are plenty of solid choices for the board that will ensure a well-rounded, functional entity that can capably guide the community in the years to come.

We think those choices should be **Karl Zarbo, Todd Caccamo, John Anthony** and **Fred Bolden**. Zarbo is an easy choice. With a full term under his belt, he has performed the job well and will be a valuable voice during the time of transition on the board. His experience on the planning commission gives him a valuable perspective and knowledge of that important role of the township trustee—ensuring smart development brings about a diverse tax base.

Caccamo, likewise has proved a valuable addition since

he came on board four years ago. His methods have mellowed a bit—which is a good thing—but he still remains the guy who is not afraid to ask the tough questions. Anyone familiar with the recent Hindu temple expansion controversy should remember that.

The caveat to his endorsement, however, is the fact that he re-enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps before he announced his candidacy. That means that there is a strong likelihood that he will spend a considerable amount of time away from the dais on an overseas deployment—as he did during his first term. That's a concern. It's not because the board cannot function with only six people, it's that voters should have confidence that the person they elect will be there. It is time for the Michigan Legislature to look at this to allow for temporary appointments while elected officials are serving their country in another capacity.

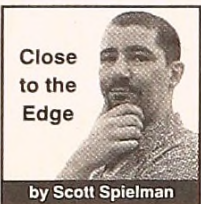
That brings us to the new guys. We think Anthony will be a solid addition to the board. He has the ability to ask questions, sift through the answers and make things happen. His background with the Federal Bureau of Investigation will provide a unique perspective, as well.

Bolden has earned the right, too. He ran for the office unsuccessfully four years ago but has since stayed involved in the community. We think that shows a willingness to serve and a genuine interest in the community. His technological expertise will help as the township grapples with new technologies, too.

With the change in the upper levels of the elected administration, a well-rounded board will be essential to keep Canton as the cream of the crop for the next four years. We think the people who will provide that are **Karl Zarbo, Todd Caccamo, Fred Bolden** and **John Anthony**.

Non profits need to be carefully non political

When I first read a letter last week from State Sen. Bruce Patterson about concerns for the Canton Community Foundation, I had an immediate response.



Here we go again.

The concerns he brought up, about a political undertone in the most recent People Matters, the newsletter put out by the foundation, were eerily similar to the issue that came up when Beth Stewart ran for the House of Representatives two years ago.

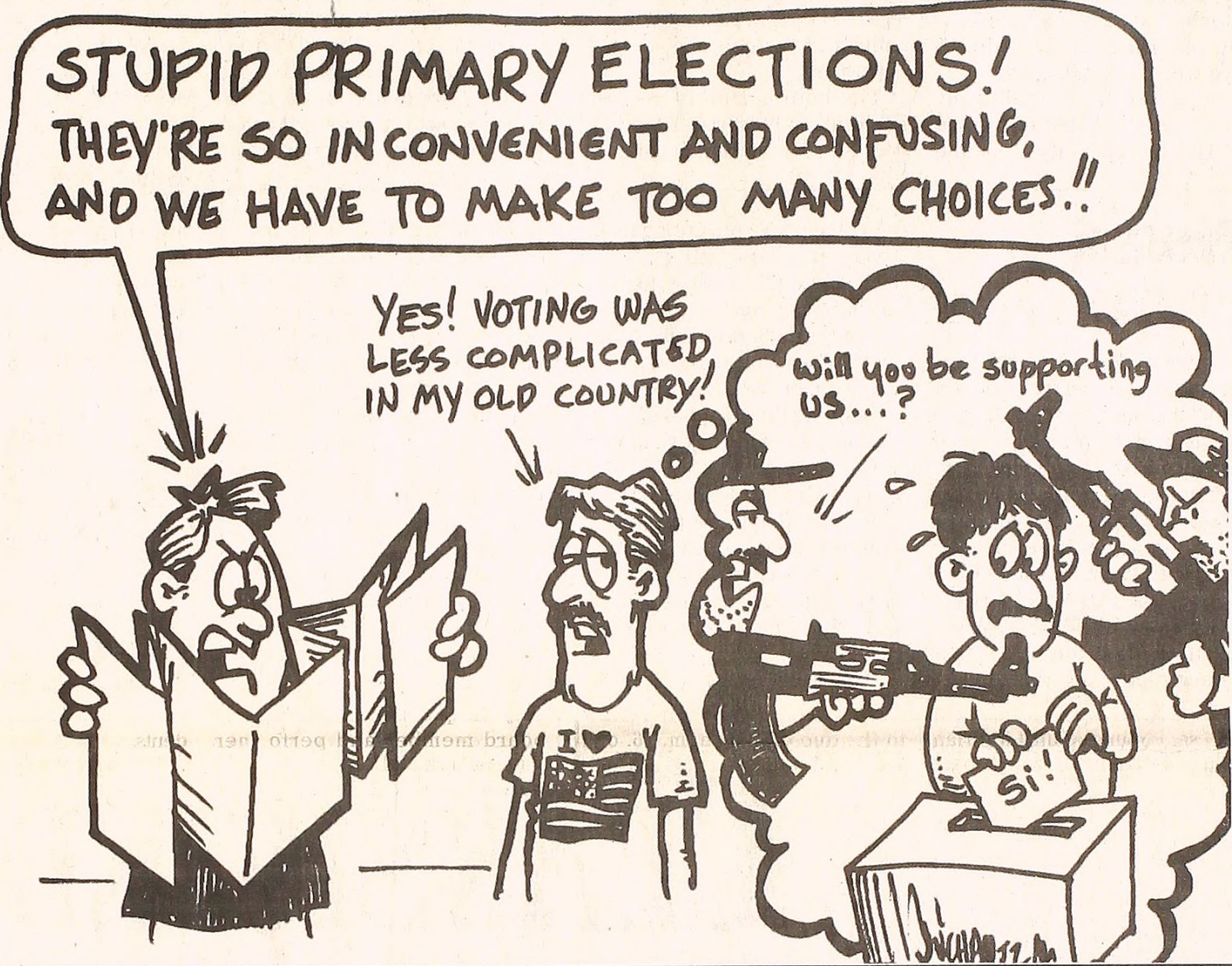
I've since obtained a copy and looked through it. Patterson's concerns, I believe, are from the number of times Joan Noricks' picture appears in the newsletter—far more than usual, I am told—as well as a snippet on the last page about why she has taken a leave of absence from the foundation. Noricks is one of two candidates for the Canton Township Treasurer post; long-time trustee Melissa McLaughlin is the other.

In some aspects, I think Patterson may be overly concerned about the newsletter. That's understandable, though, considering his role in the formation of it and his on-going dedication to it's success and his knowledge of the legal ramifications of using these kinds of mailings from not-for-profit entities for political means.

Still, there are a few troubling things. The newsletter is supposed to be a quarterly issue, and this is the first one to come out this year. The timing of it is a bit suspicious, but I suppose you could chalk it up to the relatively depleted staff at the foundation.

More bothersome to me is the

See **Neutral**, page 6



Now is time to choose November candidates

Tuesday, a number of important issues will be decided by voters.

Local races, state races property issues and more are on the ballot for the Aug. 5 primary, many of them will decide who wins the ultimate election in November.

Primaries are sometimes overlooked by voters and that's a shame. They are an important part of the process, and residents should get

out and exercise their right in these important issues.

It's easy to it back and wait to see who makes it through the primary and then cast a ballot in December; but that is not fair to the many candidates who have already worked long and hard to get out their message and woe votes their way.

This has been, in many cases, a refreshing campaign season in the

amount of quality people who have come out to serve for elected office. We think by and large, the ones that are trying to do the right thing outweigh those that are merely looking for a job or trying to hop into a new one.

That's a good thing to see. It's good to see so many people active in politics, interested in their community and willing to take on the

burdens in order to help out.

No matter what your political beliefs are, party affiliation or what have you, these people deserve your support. Show them that you're paying attention, too, that you want to make the community better and have a voice in the leadership of your city, township and county.

Get out and vote on Aug. 5.

Fundraiser provides a whole new perspective

I got a chance to see Belleville from a different point of view last weekend during the Tour de Belleville.

The bike tour, organized by Pat and Diane Bruetsch of the Bicycle Peddler, was an effort to generate funds for Andrew Valinski, a Van Buren Township

boy stricken with leukemia and other young victims of the disease.

When I heard about it, I thought what a great idea, of course I'll sign up. I did—along with my sister—for the master's route of 15.7 miles (or was it 18 miles, I'm still not sure because of the conflicting answers) and, at 9 a.m. we left the bike shop on Fifth Street.

As I watched the orange arrows placed to guide me, I thought about how nice Belleville Lake looked and, turning onto Harmony Lane, I felt the same way. Typically, I never really go back into that subdivision, but as I did I was somewhat amazed at how big some of those houses off the lake are. There were for sale signs, which didn't surprise me, but just reminded me how depressing the times right now can be. However, we kept moving along to the I-94 Service Drive, up to Haggerty Road to our first rest stop at French Landing Park.

Luckily, since we started early, it wasn't too hot or humid yet, and there was just enough of a breeze to keep us cool, but we still stopped at the each of the rest

stops for liquid and carbohydrate fuel, as well as to say hi to the locals along the way.

Back on the bikes we made our way through the longest stretch of the ride on East Huron River Drive.

Moving past Five Points to Columbia Avenue, West Huron River Drive, all the way to Rawsonville Road, I realized I rarely come through this side of the Belleville area either. We stopped briefly to take in the lake view, which turned out to be a good idea because we didn't realize the hill that was coming up next. OK, I'm no Lance Armstrong and this was certainly no 'Tour de France', but I'd like to think after years of running and races that I'm somewhat athletic. This particular hill that took us up Rawsonville Road though gave us a struggle and caused us to immediately start laughing. One, because it was funny watching us pedal like crazy and two, because it was kind of tough (and laughing seems to make it easier I guess.)

Not to worry, we did make it and moved on to the South I-94 Service Drive, the Denton Road

rest stop and then to the final stretch of the ride.

Back at the Bicycle Peddler, I found out that more than 100 people participated (mind you it was about 10:45 a.m. at that point). I never did get the final figures, but I'd say if that was the actual number, it's not too bad for a first-time event.

I would have liked to see more people participate because it wasn't just fun, it was for a great cause.

We skipped the pancake breakfast prior to and never made it to the chili cook-off either; but my sister and I enjoyed our ride and even have the pictures to prove it.

It may not sound as exciting in print, but it was peaceful, certainly a workout and we felt good knowing where our efforts and funds were going.

I never got to actually meet Andrew, but I'm sure he and his family appreciate all the support everyone gave. The Tour de Belleville was all for a cause and now, I can't wait to see what will happen next year.



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Letters

Annexation rhetoric questioned

I am perplexed by the claim of 8,000 new jobs with the potential development of the hospital property.

Where will all these jobs come from? Perhaps the mayor and the developer can and should better explain this. As you drive through Livonia, along I-275, 7-mile road, 6-mile road etc. you will see "space for lease" all over. Now if the mayor and the council put as much effort into filling all the existing vacancies, retail space, open office and medical building vacancies etc. Livonia could create hundreds of thousands of jobs. But instead they are spending their time and efforts on these infamous 8,000 jobs.

I thought Quicken was going to be leaving Livonia in the not-to-distant future? What is the plan for filling all that office space? The vacant office space at 7-Mile and Haggerty that has been vacant for four years? The Livonia Mall? The new office buildings going up at 7-Mile just East of I-275? Retail space at 8-Mile and Haggerty?

The truth is there are literally tons of open areas left in Livonia and what have the mayor and the

council done to address these? I urge you, as neighbors, friends and co-workers to carefully examine the facts, ask the tough questions and do your research. Keep in mind people that will personally gain from the annexation are the ones most in favor of it. I am confident that if you really understand what has happened to this point you too will vote no on annexation.

Mark Peper
Northville Township

Candidate criticizes rival

To the editor;

I can't believe that Kevin McNamara is unwilling to spend the money to prosecute Kwame Kilpatrick. I couldn't disagree more. It is a greater financial burden to the county to keep corrupt leaders in office than to prosecute them.

While I have made it clear our roads need improvements, I believe there are other non-essential items that can be cut, as well as legislation put in place, to help the shortfall in our public services department.

The bottom line is we can't afford not to prosecute Kilpatrick, because of his leadership, the city

continues to drop in population which in turn hurts the entire county.

I agree with Dave Bing that the first step to turn this ship around is to get new leadership and strive to regain credibility.

Steve Johnson,
Canton
Candidate for Wayne County
Commission—District 11

City election tactics criticized

To the editor;

It is amazing what length politicians will go to "win". The deception and scare tactics are in full bloom in Belleville. They so want a \$6,500,000 loan to be approved by the voters in Belleville they seem to be all pitching in.

This week the mayor sends out a flyer-type letter with pictures of a piece of a water pipe. This same water pipe was shown to me by the DPW director. He also brought the pipe to the DDA and city council meetings. The DPW director also showed the pipe to the DDA engineers from the Spicer group. Now, this is a piece of pipe that is about 20 inches long. The pipe is tapered by design. The pipe is severely cor-

roded. The mayor wants you to see this and assume the Main Street water main is severely corroded. The fact is, this piece of pipe is not from any section of the Main Street water main. The fact is, it's from a different water main. And when you mail out to voters the picture of a severely corroded pipe from a different water main you are trying to deceive, scare and confuse the voters, not inform them. The fact is, the Spicer group engineers said this piece of pipe is not an indication of the extent of corrosion in the water main. You see, engineers know that this is not the way professionals evaluate water mains for replacement.

Also chipping in was another politician. At the last city council meeting (July 7, 2008) a councilman said that if the voters don't approve this \$6,500,000 loan we will have to live with Main Street as is. That the DDA will move on to other important projects it wants to do. Scare tactics. Scare them to approve the \$6,500,000 loan. Sorry councilman, the voters in Belleville are not stupid. What possible project is more important than resurfacing Main Street? This will not be a "take it or leave it" vote. The taxpayers of Belleville will not accept a 30 year, \$6,500,000 (plus interest) debt simply because a half mile of Main Street needs resurfacing. When this \$6,500,000 loan is voted down we must immediately come together for a sensible and affordable resurfacing Main Street project. Main Street needs resurfacing now.

In closing, I must touch upon the beautiful postcard sent out and paid for by our DDA last week. It was a very professional looking and carefully worded piece, I must admit. They do, however, misrepresent the giving of money to the Kroger project. Nobody I know of said they were giving money to Kroger. What we have said came right from the DDA and city Council in open public meetings. The city/DDA will buy up to 14 properties and demolish them. Then they will build a "public" parking lot for Kroger. And carry the cost of maintaining the "public" parking lot annually. So I guess they aren't really giving money to Kroger; just buying and building a \$2 million parking lot right in front of Kroger. The beautiful postcard also neglected to mention we are talking about \$6,500,000, plus interest, for 30 years for a half mile of road. Have we lost our minds? Thirty years. The road and streetscape won't last 30 years. We will still be paying for it when we have to redo it again. Simply baffling. It seems like a common sense, slam dunk vote, I know. But, just in case, get out Aug. 5 and vote NO.

And to the residents on Liberty Street, that piece of pipe the mayor has pictured in his letter is from your water main. You folks might want to find out more about what the mayor plans to do about it.

Michael Foley
MSMA vice chair
Belleville Frosty Boy

Neutral

FROM PAGE 5

bit about Noricks and her leave of absence. It mentions that she will be gone at least until Aug. 5, the date of the primary election. It says that she is running for the office of Canton Township Treasurer and that whoever wins the primary will be the next treasurer. There is no mention of her opponent.

Obviously, the foundation was trying to walk the fine line of telling supporters what is going

on at the office, reassuring them that things will still go on as before, and not crossing the into the forbidden zone.

Well, I think they missed the mark. There are plenty of better ways to handle it. A simple note explaining the Ray Maloni was serving as interim president would do the trick.

Again, as we pointed out two years ago, this is not about the candidates involved. It's not about who we endorsed, or who should win the election. Take away the names and look at the issue.

The issue is that non-profits

are in a difficult time right now. The economy is soft, donations are down and non-profit organizations are needed more in general. People tend to be very careful where they donate their hard-earned cash, and they are being even more careful in this day and age. Any kind of hint of political wrong-doing can be a terrible blow to an organization that has done so much good in the community.

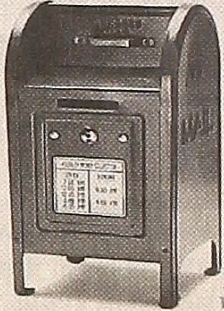
That's my concern here, anyway. This organization is too important to fall under any kind of shadow. They should be a lot more careful.

Send us your letters

The Journal Newspapers welcomes all letters to the editor.

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The Editor, The Journal Newspapers, 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan 48184.

All letters will be considered for publication and may be edited for content, space and length.



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- 07. Attorneys
- 08. Entertainment
- 09. Lost & Found
- 10. Coming Events
- 30. Help Wanted

- 31. Help Wanted Sales
- 32. Help Wanted Drivers
- 33. Child Care
- 34. Specialized Services
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- 40. Business Opportunity
- 42. Health and Fitness
- 43. Money to Loan
- 44. Music/Art Lessons
- 45. Adult Care
- 46. Private Schools/Instruction
- 47. Riding/Horses/Stables

- 50. Pets & Supplies
- 54. Rummage Sales
- 55. Estate Sales
- 56. Flea Markets
- 57. Antiques
- 58. Garage and Yard Sales
- 59. Auctions
- 60. Misc. Sales
- 61. Misc. Items
- 62. Building Supplies
- 63. Business and Office Equipment

- 64. Lawn & Garden Supplies
- 65. Tree Service
- 66. Landscape / Nurseries
- 67. Garden Plant / Supplies
- 68. Garden / Produce
- 70. Masonry / Brickwork
- 72. Cleaning Services
- 73. Musical Merchandise
- 74. Sporting Goods
- 75. Boats / Accessories
- 76. Remodeling & Renovations
- 77. Recreation Vehicles

- 78. Hunting / Fishing
- 82. Wanted to Buy
- 87. Room for Rent
- 88. Duplexes for Rent
- 89. Apartments for Rent
- 90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent
- 92. Business Places for Rent
- 93. Banquet Halls
- 94. Farm Land for Rent
- 95. Real Estate
- 96. Houses for Rent
- 97. Cottages for Rent

- 98. Mobile Homes for Rent
- 99. Flats for Rent
- 100. Will Share
- 101. Wanted to Rent
- 102. Storage
- 103. Business Property for Sale
- 104. Farms & Acreage for Sale
- 105. Mobile Homes for Sale
- 106. Houses for Sale
- 107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale
- 108. Lake and Resort
- 109. Income Property

- 110. Lots for Sale
- 111. Out of State Property
- 112. Commercial Lease
- 113. Real Estate Wanted
- 114. Auto Accessories
- 115. Autos for Sale
- 116. Antique & Classic Cars
- 117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
- 118. Freebies
- 119. Auto Repairs
- 120. Motorcycles
- 121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries

ALLMENDINGER, Jackson, 86, of Honor, died Tuesday, July 22, 2008, at his home. He was born April 21, 1922, in Dearborn, the son of Elmer and Carie Allmendinger.

Jackson was a member of the Benzie County Sportsman Club and St. Ann Parish in Frankfort, where he was active in the Men's Club and served as head usher. He was a proud Army veteran of WWII, serving in the Philippines. Jackson is survived by: his loving wife Doris Allmendinger of Honor; his beloved children, David (Susan) Allmendinger of West Branch, Carolyn (John) Baker of Florida, James Allmendinger of North Dakota, Dennis Allmendinger of Belleville; and his brother-in-law Ray (Cathy) Gillem of Unidilla. Jackson is also survived by his 7 adoring grandchildren and 13 adoring great-grandchildren.

Jackson was preceded in death by: his parents; and his brother Eugene of New Hampshire in 2008. Mass from the Order of Christian Funerals was celebrated at St. Ann Parish, in Frankfort. Interment was at the Benzon Township Cemetery in Benzon. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Ann Parish or Munson Hospice. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Bennett-Barz Funeral Home, Harris-Sheffler Chapel, in Beulah. www.bennett-barzfuneral-home.com



BUTLER, Truman Jr., age 79, died July 20, 2008. He was born April 23, 1929. He leaves to cherish his loving memory five children, Truman V. III (Deborah) Butler of Taylor, MI, Barry L. (Deborah) Butler of Canton, MI, Audrey Sylvester of Las Vegas, NV, Sherry (Rev. Mark) Hawkins of Greenville, AL and Lakita Triplett of Detroit, MI.; seven sisters, Lizzie B. Richardson of Pensacola, FL, Juanita Wynn of Fallon, IL, Pearlline Jennings of East St. Louis, IL, Pauline Colston, Amie Harris and Julia Luster, all of Inkster, MI and Katherine Cashaw of Detroit, MI; three brothers, Arthur and Jimmy Butler of Alabama and John (Gerometta) Butler of Inkster, MI; 15 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews and friends. Service were held at the Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ, Inkster, MI with Bishop Isaac King, Jr. officiating. Interment was at Knollwood

Memorial Park, Canton, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



GIBSON, Virginia Marguerite "Penny", age 89, died July 22, 2008. She was born November 8, 1918. She leaves to cherish her memory her grandson Juan of Toledo, OH; three great grandchildren, Juan Jr. and Apree of Inkster, MI and Keaira of Detroit, MI; two special cousins, Edna Madison of Aurora, CO and Bobbie (Darryl) Williams of Albuquerque, NM; two step sisters, Delores (Billie) Clements and Carmen (Anthony) Gilkey; one step brother, Talmadge E. Walters and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Rev. Thomas M. Higginbotham officiating. Cremation rites were accorded. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



HACKNEY, Dr. Larry Heywood, age 69, died July 17, 2008. He was born August 13, 1938. Dr. Hackney lost his battle with cancer on July 17th. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Marvie; his children Lawrence (Sylvia), LaMar (Jill) and LeAnn Camille Thornton (Troy); brother Robert (Lillie); sister Carolyn Drumwright; and grandchild McKinley Grace Thornton. He served as Dean of Students at Washtenaw Community College, and retired as Dean of Students at Macomb Community College in 2002. He graduated from Tennessee State Univ. in 1962 and earned a Ph.D. from U of M in 1973. Memorial services were held at Penn Funeral Home. Interment was at United memorial Gardens, Plymouth, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

STUART, Barbara N., age 68, died July 24, 2008 at home surrounded by her family after a brief illness. Barbara was preceded in death by her parents Anthony and Hazel Dishnow and by her brother Ronald. Barbara is survived by her daughters Shannon (Tim), Laura (Dan), Beth (Brian) and Lisa (Brian); her sisters Lynn (Jerry) and Madeleine. Barbara was blessed with nine grandchildren who loved her dearly, and many wonderful friends. A celebration of Barbara's life will be held Thursday, July 31 at Fellow's Creek Golf Club, 2936 Lotz Road, Canton, MI from noon to 2:00pm. Memorial contributions can be made to the Wayne Garden Club, 38689 Parkview Drive, Wayne, MI 48184. Final arrangements have been entrusted to Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Wayne, MI.



TAYLOR, Brenda Joyce, age 57, died July 13, 2008. She was born may 13, 1951.

She leaves to cherish her memory, three children, McKinley (Shantae) Taylor Jr., Christina Marie Finley and Donte Singleton of Westland, MI; grandchildren, La Chae Banks of Detroit, MI and Tinisha Alford, McKinley D. Taylor III and Donteze D. Taylor of Westland, MI. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Elder Zandra Taylor officiating. Interment was at Detroit Memorial Park Cemetery, Redford, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



TODD, Fredrick A., age 39, died July 23, 2008. He was born October 20, 1968. He leaves to mourn, his wife Crystal; daughters, Takarah, Daijah, Avierre and Jayla; son Jaylen; grandchildren

X'Zavion and Thurman Jr.; his mother Doris Todd; his father, Robert Alexander (Cynthia); his sister, Keisha Todd; his grandfather, Teddy Todd (Clementine); his mother-in-law, Deborah Street; five brothers-in-law; four sisters-in-law and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins and friends. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Apostle lee Williams officiating. Interment was at Mt. Hope memorial Gardens, Livonia, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

WHITEHILL, Harriet Helen (Nanny), a 40 year resident of Romulus, MI, passed away on Friday, July 18, 2008 at the Maple Lawn Medical Care Facility in Coldwater, MI at the age of 95. Harriet is survived by her son Keith Whitehill (Marilyn), daughter Jane Raker (Dave), and son Jim Whitehill (Betty). She is also survived by 26 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren. Harriet was preceded in death by her husband Gerald Whitehill, son Wylie

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Whitehill and daughter Dianne Summerfield. A memorial service has already taken place. Memorial donations may be made to the Jonesville or Romulus Public libraries. Final arrangements were entrusted to Generations Funeral and Cremation Services, Berkley, MI.



WILLIAMS, Julius Sr., age 62, died June 24, 2008. He was born August 13, 1945. Julius leaves behind strong, loving memories and will be greatly cherished by his four children, Ebony, Carlos Sr., Rodney and Julius Jr.; the mother oh his children, Dorothy J. Williams; thirteen grandchildren; two great grandchildren; three brothers; three sisters and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Elder Ronald P. Springer officiating. Cremation rites were accorded. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

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Publish: July 31, 2008

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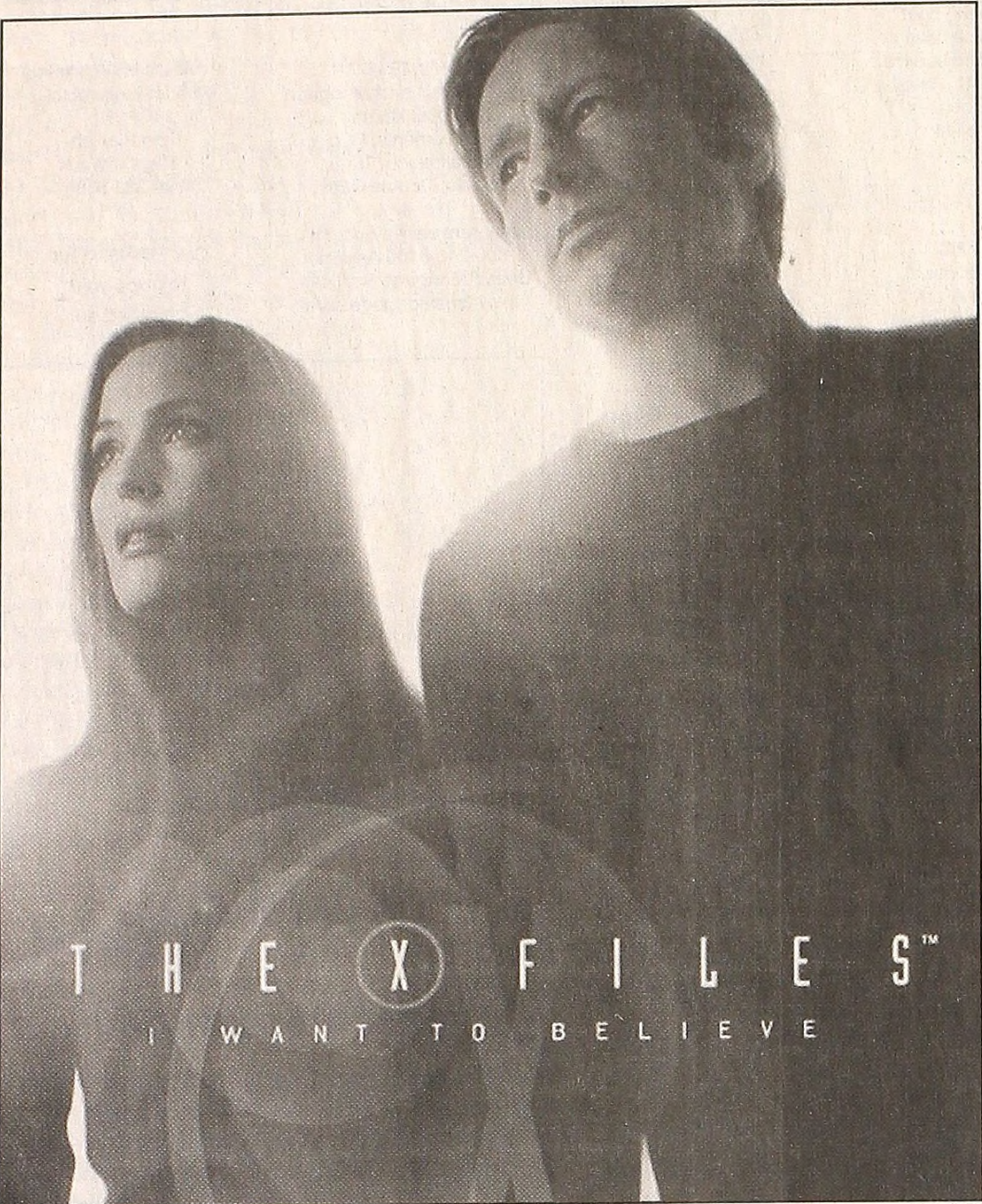
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THE SCENE



Film doesn't measure up to pre-release publicity

As *The X-Files: I Want to Believe* headed to the theaters last weekend, the iconic characters bolstered claims that you can't go home. The filmmakers tried—and failed—to live up to the hype.

When the eerie strains of otherworldly music filled the theater, filmgoers familiar with the series recalled the series in its heyday as FBI agent Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) sought to validate his beliefs in the paranormal—from alien abductions to mythical monsters—by finding the truth in the events. His openness to all things weird and wondrous was countered by the inherent skepticism of his partner, FBI agent and medical doctor Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson), who strove with equal determination to find rational, scientific grounds to explain and debunk the seemingly paranormal roots of the cases deemed X-Files.

As the film opens, the duo are asked to

step in on an FBI case involving a missing agent by Assistant Special Agent in Charge Dakota Whitney (Amanda Peet). She cajoles the two to take on a new X-File because, she says, their unique experiences could make them the only ones capable of rescuing the missing woman.

A lot has changed since X-Files fans last saw Mulder and Scully together in the 2002 cliffhanger that marked the end of the television series, however. The passage of time has inexorably changed both of the former partners as introspection and the aftereffects of their experiences have left them battling their own demons.

The new case, which involves disgraced priest Father Joseph Fitzpatrick Crissman (Billy Connolly), ultimately fans the flames of the questions and concerns both Mulder and Scully have long fought as the film explores the ramification of choices and their conse-



Reviewed By
Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

quences, the boundary between science and religion wavers and shifts, and the line between using science for good and for evil is tested.

Those unfamiliar with the characters or the series needn't worry. The new movie, which was designed as a thriller as much as a science fiction film, was created to stand alone so that audiences need not have any prior knowledge to be drawn into the story.

Although it raises some interesting issues, the film fails to fully capitalize on two of its greatest assets: Duchovny and Anderson. Their acting is arguably better than ever and both offer stellar performances that far outshine the so-so editing and that is complemented by amazing cinematography. Presumably with the intention of granting the film a greater cinematic presence, the movie focuses much of its attention on the

discretely implied horrors the victim witnesses. Unfortunately, the rapid switches between scenes and clichéd thrills do little to enhance the film and the plot itself is less innovative than series regulars might expect.

It is a halfway decent thriller in and of itself, but fans of the series may find that it feels more like a particularly dark episode of the television series with extra footage frantically crammed into it, than a smoothly flowing feature-length film.

Written by X-Files veterans Frank Spotnitz and Chris Carter and directed by series creator Carter, *The X-Files: I Want to Believe* also featured performances by Mitch Pileggi, who reprised his role as FBI honcho Walter Skinner, as well as by Xzibit as dour FBI Agent Mosley Drummy. The film is rated PG-13 for violent and disturbing content and thematic materials.



Reviewed By
Ashely Dobos
Staff Writer

Step brothers

Crude and lewd, but surprisingly funny

Anyone with low expectations for the movie *Stepbrothers* may be surprised. The movie is surprisingly funny. This is the type of movie that gets people to laugh by using a ton of cussing and bodily fluid jokes.

Stepbrothers tells the story of Brennan (Will Ferrell) and Dale (John C. Reilly), two spoiled 40-year-olds who still live with their parents. Brennan's mom Nancy (Mary Steenbergen) and Dale's dad Robert (Richard Jenkins) meet at a conference, fall in love, and get married. Dale and Robert move in with Brennan and Nancy, which is when the fun begins.

Brennan and Dale hate each other at first. They take every opportunity to irritate each other. Dale tells Brennan to never touch his drum set, which prompts Brennan's immediate attraction to the instrument. The two also enjoy contriving elaborate practical jokes on each other and then beating each other up whenever possible.

The stepbrothers soon find out they have more in common than they originally thought. They become new best friends and even attempt to join their beds into a bunk bed configuration, because they will "have so much more room to do activities." They even go to job interviews together (one with a guest appearance by Seth Rogen)

and want to start a business together.

Some of the funniest moments in the movie come during the music video Brennan and Dale create. Brennan bursts out singing "Let's Give Them Something to Talk About." The job interview scenes will be painfully amusing to many audiences, too.

Stepbrothers had many laugh out loud moments. The movie was packed with funny lines that people will quote long after they leave the theater - many of them can't be printed in this review. Ferrell and Reilly make a great comedic team and play off of each other's jokes really well. Although the jokes in the movie are nothing new, they're still side-splittingly funny when

Ferrell and Reilly say/do them.

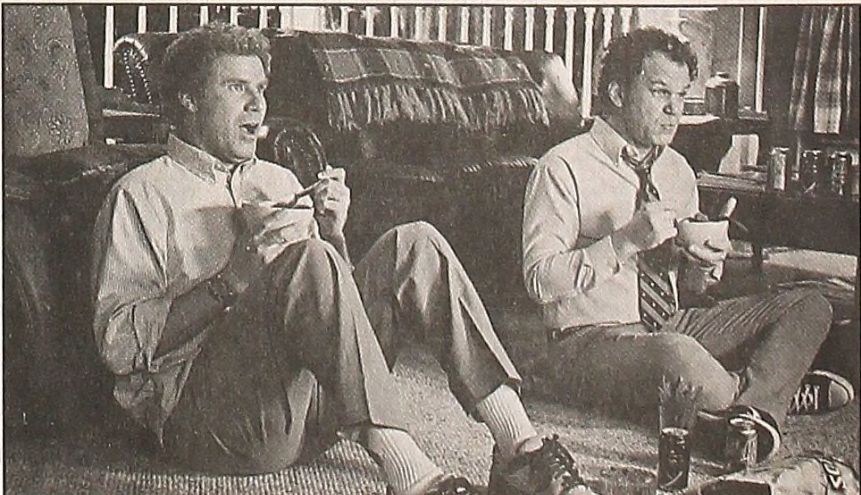
The performances by Steenbergen and Jenkins were much more toned down than Ferrell and Reilly, leaving the pratfalls and silliness to the pair.

Be warned, however, crude humor and bad language are the mainstays of the summer escape and it certainly won't be seen anywhere except as comic relief at the Oscars.

The plot is weak, the storyline contrived and the humor of the juvenile, locker-room type.

Despite it all, however, audiences will laugh.

Stepbrothers is an hour and 35 minutes long, and is rated R for crude and sexual content and pervasive language.



THE SCENE

Here come the champions

Area seniors prepare for annual Senior Olympics this month

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Seniors of Van Buren Township take note because there's still time to register for the annual Western Wayne County Senior Olympics.

To register, residents can pick up a form at the September Days Senior Center and return it, along with the applicable registration fees. Each participant will need to pay a \$5 registration, which will include a t-shirt that will serve as their admission ticket to the various events.

Communities participating in the Western Wayne County Senior Olympics from Aug. 18-22 include: Belleville, Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Northville, Northville Township, Westland, Wayne, Inkster, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Livonia, Garden City, and Redford Township.

Lynette Jordan, senior coordinator at September Days, said members are ready and excited.

"Oh yes, we've got quite a few in all the different events, particularly the shuffleboard" she said. "At least 30 people have signed up as of now."

Westland—the host community of the Senior Olympics—will have the opening ceremony, 5K run, 10-mile bicycle ride, softball throw, ring toss, football throw, Frisbee toss, soccer kick and Fun Walk. There will also be challenges including, a euchre tournament, pinochle and party bridge, baking contest, photo and art, creative writing, a basketball shoot, horseshoes, billiards, bocce ball, bowling, volleyball, golf, three swimming competitions, singles and doubles tennis and table tennis.

Shuffleboard will once again take place at Van Buren Township.

"There are many events and new this year is ballroom dancing, with the tango,

waltz and swing," said Jordan.

A breakfast prior to the opening ceremony will also take place at 9 a.m. on Aug. 18 at Hines Park hosted by Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

Originally created by Ficano, the Senior Olympics offers citizens age 50 and older a chance to compete in competitions with communities throughout the region. Westland had been expected to host it last year, but Canton Township ultimately agreed to take over the 2007 event to allow organizers to plan around the closure of Central City Park for the 2008 games.

"We're growing every year," said Jakleen Ochalek, executive assistant to the Wayne County executive and one of the organizers of the event. "Normally it is about 400-450 people."

The opening ceremony and torch lighting is slated for 10 a.m. on Aug. 18 in Hines Park near Nankin Mills in Westland. A complete schedule of activities is available at area senior centers.

Awards for first, second and third place medal winners will be given at the banquet at noon on Aug. 22 at the Westland Senior Resources Center. Tickets are also available for purchase for \$12.

Last year, individuals representing Westland earned 80 medals, including 39 gold medals. The next highest total belonged to Canton Township, which earned 59 medals. Jordan said she's hoping for many awards from September Days members.

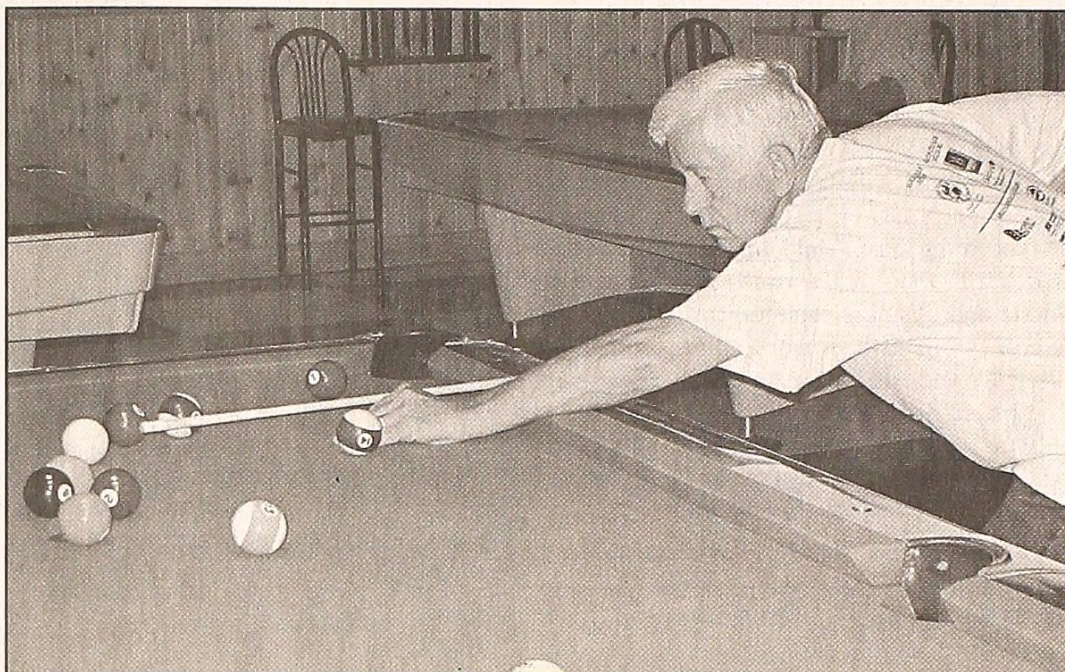
"We had a lot last year. We want at least one award for everybody because we have a lot of members participating in two or three events," Jordan said.

For more information, event fees or to register for the Olympics, contact the Westland Friendship Center at (734) 722-7661.

Staff Writer Meghan Chatham contributed to this story



Euchre and pinochle competitors kept their cards close to them at the event last year.



Billiards is one of the most popular events at the Senior Olympics every year a spokesperson said.

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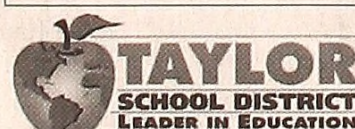
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Finally, once again, all of our elementary and middle schools have achieved Adequate Yearly Progress, the state's benchmark for student achievement, which means our entire district has met AYP.

In addition, Taylor has earned NCA accreditation for our middle schools, at both high schools and four of our elementary schools.

Jill ★ DEMOCRAT Brandana For State Representative

Dear Readers,

I am a life long resident of the City of Taylor and serve on the Taylor City Council. I am 45 years old, my husband's name is Ron, and we have been married for 11 years. My parents, throughout their lives, demonstrated to me the importance of community involvement. While working full time in a legal office, I went to college at night and weekends and earned my Master's Degree in Public Administration. I also donate many hours planning various events for children and I volunteer for a domestic violence prevention program. I believe my choices in life prove I care about the well being of others and I am not afraid of hard work.

Currently, I am running for State Representative for your District. I believe my education, experience and values qualify me for this office, and I hope, for your vote.

I have received the endorsements of the organizations listed below. The members/retirees of these organizations are hardworking people with families just like you and me. I believe that workers deserve fair wages for a fair day's work, safety in the workplace and good insurance. I believe seniors should be able to enjoy their golden years with the dignity they've earned; and that children be provided an education which will allow them to succeed in our ever-changing world. I believe government has a responsibility to provide safe roads for travel and a healthy environment with clean air and water. If elected, I will listen to your needs, work hard for you, and make decisions that are in our best interest.

Jill Brandana

ENDORSEMENTS:

- ★ SENATOR RAYMOND E. BASHAM
- ★ MARY ANN RILEY, TAYLOR CITY CLERK
- ★ HARRY CROUT, ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL
- ★ SANDRA CROUT, ROMULUS SCHOOL BOARD
- ★ UAW REGION 1A
- ★ MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (MEA)
- ★ TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL #43
- ★ GREATER DETROIT BUILDING TRADES
- ★ AFL-CIO
- ★ MICHIGAN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS
- ★ AFSCME COUNCIL 25
- ★ MICHIGAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY - 15th DISTRICT
- ★ ROMULUS DEMOCRATIC CLUB
- ★ ROMULUS PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS UNION
- ★ ROMULUS POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
- ★ TAYLOR PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS UNION
- ★ TAYLOR POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



"I support Jill Brandana because she supports Taylor and Romulus working families. Together Jill and I will fight to create new jobs and bring new investment to our area." — Senator Ray Basham
D-Taylor and Romulus

SPORTS

Sander to lead Mustang hoops

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Todd Sander is no stranger to Mustang basketball.

Then again, that's probably why he was recently crowned Northville head varsity coach for the 2008-09 school year.

He is a graduate of Northville High School and has been a fixture in the Northville boys basketball program since the late 1990s. He started as a junior varsity assistant (1999-2002), worked his way to junior varsity head coach spot (2002-2008) and then to a varsity assistant (2006-2008). He also worked in the girls' basketball program for four seasons (2003-2006) prior to the season change.

"We are extremely excited to have Todd Sander lead the next generation of Northville boys basketball," said Northville Athletics Director Bryan Masi. "Todd is a well-respected member of the Northville athletic and business communities. We believe his tireless work ethic, knowledge and passion for the game of basketball will help our program continue to achieve at a high level. Todd's dedication and loyalty shall serve as a model to our student-athletes."

Sander is the third in a string of new hires at the high school. Matt Ladach was hired at the end of the 2007 football season as the new varsity football coach and Todd Gudith was named the girls varsity head coach in April.

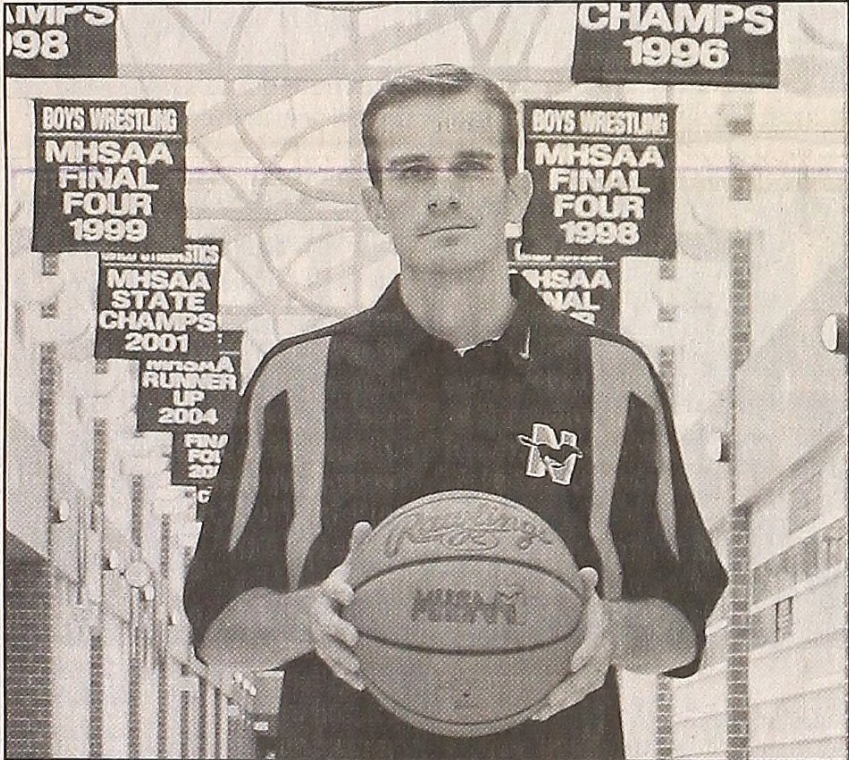
Outside of basketball Sander earned a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in finance and he currently works as a registered representative for Baldwin Capital Management, Inc. in Northville.

Sander takes the reins from Darrel Schumacher, who stepped down in early June after seven years as the boys' head basketball coach.

"I am grateful for the trust extended to me by the Northville administration," Sander said. "This is a dream come true, but it would not be possible without the help and support from all of the coaches I have worked with and for during the past seasons. I am forever indebted to coaches Turner, Baldwin, (Ed) Kritch, (Pete) Wright, (Ali) Metaj and especially Coach (Darrel) Schumacher."

Masi said Schumacher will stay involved in the program in some capacity. He will also be the defen-

See Hoops, page 11



Todd Sander is the new Northville boys basketball varsity head coach.

City championship returns for 45th year

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again to shine up or dust off the ol' golf clubs.

The renowned annual City Championship Golf Tournament is just around the corner and will pit some of the best golfers in the area against each other.

On August 9-10 the tournament, run by long-time Wayne resident, coach and teacher Bill Hawley—a local legend of sorts—with assistance by the City of Wayne Parks and Recreation Department, kicks off its 45th year of competitive golf.

Fellows Creek Golf Course in Canton Township, which was redeveloped in time for last summer's tournament, sets the stage again for the event this year.

The competition is opened to all cities: Wayne, Westland, Canton, Plymouth, Romulus, Inkster, Garden City and Livonia. There is also an Open Division for residents outside those communities and a senior division for people older than 55. The city with the five best scores wins the prestigious Rotary Club Traveling

Trophy, according to Hawley.

The two-day event follows true tournament rules. But don't worry if your score typically reaches triple digits. The competition is set up in flights so players can compete against golfers of the same caliber. There are flights for all ages, gender and abilities. The top three places in each flight win trophies with medalists receiving the Medalist Trophy.

"For high school golfers this is a great place to warm up for the coming year," Hawley said. "We welcome anyone from the surrounding areas who loves to golf to come out for two fun-filled days of competition."

The tournament will feature past champions like Claude Jonston, Sandy Felan and last year's winner, Zach McCurley. And even Hawley himself will make another bid for the highly sought after award.

The price for the two days of 18-hole tournament golf, including awards, is \$60 per player. Golf carts are not included in the price.

For more information call Jeff Rutter or Steve Winkelman at the Wayne Recreation Center at 734-721-7400.



Inkster alumni Mike Williams (8) defends against a pair of Robichaud players at mid court in the battle of the alumni rivalry game on Saturday. Inkster won the game, 83-81.

Inkster tops Robichaud

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Round one of the battle for alumni supremacy goes to Inkster High School.

The Viking alumni edged out neighboring rival alumni of Dearborn Heights Robichaud High School in what supporters hope is the first in a long series of Inkster High vs. Robichaud All Star Scholarship Benefit Basketball games.

The visiting Viking All Stars won the bout, 83-81.

After trailing, 25-23, at the end of the first quarter, Inkster rallied back for a 51-50 halftime advantage and held on for the victory.

Inkster grad Victor Morris earned the MVP with his game-high 30 points. Albert White added 15. Robichaud star Andre Harris hit for 17 and Jason Malloy knocked down 13.

The true winners were the students in the Inkster and Westwood public schools. The money generated from next year's game will go into a scholarship fund for students in both school districts. An estimated 900 fans from the Inkster community and Westwood school districts showed up to support their respective schools.

"This was a huge success," said Armond Harris, the event director and Robichaud graduate. "It was a fun, family atmosphere for a good cause. I just want to thank everyone who came out and helped make this happen and for everyone who supported the



Robichaud players had some early free throws in the first quarter to pull them ahead, 25-23, but Inkster eventually won the grudge match.



Inkster huddles before the first Alumni dual kicks off on Saturday at Robichaud High.

Inkster and Westwood communities and school districts."

For halftime entertainment participants from both sides competed in a slam-dunk contest. Deon Daniels, a 6-foot-1, 2008 Robichaud graduate, won the event. Inkster's 2001 alum Julius Martin, at 6-foot-2, was the runner

up.

Harris hopes the battle of the alumni game will rotate between the two schools.

"There will definitely be a game next year," he said. "We hope it is at Inkster but we haven't decided yet. I just hope that it's a different outcome."

International flair Whalers represented in international play

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

With the Ontario Hockey season just around the corner and the preseason set to kick into high gear in four weeks, some of the Plymouth Whalers are staying sharp this summer by playing internationally.

Tyler J. Brown, of Westland, and Beau Schmitz were among 21 players selected by the USA Hockey Under-18 team to play in the 2008 Memorial of Ivan Hlinka Tournament August 12-16 in Breclav, Czech Republic, and Piestany, Slovakia.

Brown, 17, played in 64 games last year in his first season with Plymouth and scored four goals

with a six assists. Brown was an 8th round (159th overall) pick of the Whalers in the 2007 Ontario Hockey League Draft.

Schmitz was a first round pick (19th overall) for the Whalers in the 2007 OHL Draft. After scoring six goals with nine assists in 59 games last season for the National Team Development Program's Under-17 Team in Ann Arbor last season, Schmitz will join the Whalers in Plymouth for the first time for the 2008-09 season.

Brown and Schmitz aren't the only Whalers being evaluated for international competition for the 2008-09 season.

Goaltender Jeremy Smith and forward AJ Jenks are among 53

players invited to USA Hockey's National Junior Evaluation Camp August 1-9 at Lake Placid, N.Y. The camp is part of USA Hockey's process towards selecting USA's National Junior Team that will play in the 2009 World Junior Championship, held December 26, 2008-January 5, 2009 in Ottawa.

Although he was a second round pick (54th overall) by the Nashville Predators in the 2007 National Hockey League Entry Draft, Smith is slated to play for Plymouth in 2008-09. Smith has a 2.82 goals against average, .920 save percentage, seven shutouts and a 46-21-1-4

See Whalers, page 11

SPORTS Whalers

FROM PAGE 10

won-loss record in 79 career games. Smith, 19, was selected to the OHL West Division's All-Star team last season. And in 2007 Smith won USA Hockey's Dave Peterson Award as the top junior goaltender in the United States and shared the OHL's Dave Pinkney Award with Michal Neuvirth as the Whalers allowed a league-best 173 goals. He also recorded the win in the 2007 Home Hardware CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game in Quebec City.

He's no stranger to international competition either. He played for the United States in the World Junior Championships last year and Team USA in the 2006 Memorial of Ivan Hlinka Tournament.

Florida picked up Jenks in the fourth round (100th overall) in this summer's NHL Entry Draft. The 18-year-old enjoyed his best offensive season for Plymouth last year with 26 goals and 29 in 68 games. Similar to Smith, Jenks played in the 2008 Home Hardware CHL/NHL and represented the United States in the 2007 Memorial of Ivan Hlinka Tournament.

In addition, Whaler veteran Chris Terry—13th on the Whalers' all-time scoring list with 75 goals and 120 assists for 195 points in 200 career games for Plymouth—has been selected with 44 players to attend Canada's National Junior Team development camp from July 25-29, 2008 in Ottawa, ON.

Like the USA Camp, Canada's camp is part of the evaluation process towards selecting Canada's National Junior Team.

The Brampton, ON native went to Carolina is the fifth round (132nd overall) in the 2007 NHL Entry Draft. Terry was named to the OHL's West Division All-Star team last season and finished sixth in scoring in the OHL last season with 44 goals and 57 assists for 101 points and was +12 in 68 games.

The Whalers start preseason play at home at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 30 against Windsor.

Regular season play kicks off in Kitchener at 7:30 pm on Friday, Sept. 19. The home opener is at 7:05 pm on Saturday, Sept. 20.



Whalers Beau Schmitz (below) and Tyler J. Brown were named to the Team USA for the 2008 Memorial of Ivan Hlinka Tournament to be played in Czech Republic and Slovakia next month. Photos courtesy of Plymouth Whalers.



Hoops

FROM PAGE 10

sive coordinator on the boys varsity football team.

As exciting as it might be for Sander, the changing face of Mustang basketball will offer several challenges for the new coach.

With the graduation of eight seniors the team will also lose most of its size—an advantage that will be missed in the Western Lakes conference (changing to the Kensington Lakes Activities Association) known for smaller sized teams. However, the departure of seniors will offer the three returning varsity player (Scott Wagner, Eric Maise and Nick Diegel) a chance to make an immediate impact.

"With any transition there are going to be some growing pains," Sander said. "Sometimes baptism by fire is healthy. Fortunately, I am already familiar with how our school and athletic department operate. We receive tremendous support from our administration and athletic director Bryan Masi."

Regardless of the transition Sander said he is excited about the new team and season.

"On paper we may appear down but we are extremely optimistic," he said. "We had a productive summer and really came together. Our seniors started to take a leadership role and the (junior varsity) guys grew up quickly against their first varsity competition. We are looking to carry that over through the fall and into our season."

Although the Mustangs have demonstrated success at the division and conference championship levels over the last few years—even going undefeated in regular season play in 2006-07 season—the team has struggled with the One-and-Done syndrome in the state tournament.

"We're going to work hard to change that," Sander said. "However, we need to take things in step and not get too far ahead of ourselves either. More than anything I think it's about staying focused as the season wears on. After four months, things can get stale if you're not careful."

"Guys cannot be afraid," he added. "To be successful this season our guys must have no fear. We know that we're going to be the underdogs early on so hopefully our guys pick up the 'no fear' attitude in December and carry it over to March."

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Wayne County Community College District Western Campus 9555 Haggerty Road Belleville, MI 48111 August 5, 2008 at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. August 12, 2008 at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. August 19, 2008 at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.	Wayne County Community College District Eastern Campus 5901 Conner Street Detroit, MI 48213 August 7, 2008 at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. August 14, 2008 at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. August 21, 2008 at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.
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